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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the members of The Nashville Symphony upon their triumphal performance at Carnegie Hall.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those fine institutions that bring the joys of artistic expression and culture to the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, The Nashville Symphony is one such estimable institution; through application of their tremendous talents, the members of the Symphony have made substantial contributions to the cultural fabric of this state and its Capital City; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2000, the Symphony concluded an enthusiastically supported tour of Troy, New York; Wilmington, Delaware; and Lewisburg, Pennsylvania with its triumphal debut at New York City's Carnegie Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Symphony's spectacular presentation of Mark O'Connor's *Double Concerto for Two Violins* was lauded by the demanding New York critics and praised by such notable publications as *The New York Times*; and

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WHEREAS, the Nation took notice of these remarkable musicians as National Public Radio's *Performance Today* broadcast the Carnegie Hall program across America; the people of Nashville were additionally able to watch the inspirational program via a televised broadcast on Nashville Public Television; and

WHEREAS, the Carnegie Hall performance rewarded years of tremendous effort by the many people who are involved with the Symphony; since first raising his baton in Nashville in 1983, Maestro Kenneth Schermerhorn has led this vastly talented orchestra to new heights in artistic excellence, both in terms of musicianship and repertoire, thus earning recognition from musical authorities and leading publications nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the able and energetic leadership of Mr. Schermerhorn is complimented by the guidance of Executive Director Alan D. Valentine, who has been applauded by the arts community and the regional news media since joining the Symphony in June of 1998; during his tenure, The Nashville Symphony has made great strides in artistic quality that have led to its increased national stature; and

WHEREAS, since its first performance at the War Memorial Auditorium on December 10, 1946, The Nashville Symphony has delighted its audiences and over the years, has earned the fervent support of its faithful subscribers including, Symphony 2000 Chair Martha Ingram; Mrs. Ingram has been instrumental in the rise of the Symphony and is the recipient of the National Business Committee for the Arts' prestigious Leadership Award, which is presented to the one person in the country who has most effectively enlisted business support for the arts; and

WHEREAS, The Nashville Symphony's beautiful concert presentations draw support from more than 7,000 subscribers, 7,000 donors, and tens of thousands of ticket buyers annually; for the first time in the orchestra's history, combined ticket sales for the SunTrust Classical Series and the "Bank of America Pops: The Symphony Sessions" surpassed one million dollars during the 1999-2000 season; and

WHEREAS, the escalation of community support is evidenced by the doubling of the number of donors in the past few years and by a 35% increase in contributions to the annual fund; the broad support throughout the region has ensured the continued financial strength of The Nashville Symphony by increasing its endowment to 20 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, The Nashville Symphony relishes its role in the greater Tennessee community and its unique ability to expand the cultural horizons of the people of this region; nearly one-half million Middle Tennesseans are directly served by the orchestra's labors; and

WHEREAS, over one-half of the Symphony's two hundred Middle Tennessee concerts are performed free of charge, including community outreach projects such as free park concerts, and reach over 200,000 listeners in live performances, annually; The Nashville Symphony also offers nine different educational programs that serve 70,000 students in Davidson County, at no cost to the schools or parents; and

WHEREAS, The Nashville Symphony plays a key role in the city's economic development; the Symphony's excellence and reputation is a national advertisement for the exemplary quality of life in Tennessee that makes the area so attractive to prospective businesses and investors; and

WHEREAS, the Symphony's presence in Nashville is also expressed through its joint efforts with other area institutions; the Symphony regularly provides orchestral accompaniment to the Nashville Ballet and the Nashville Opera for each company's artistic endeavors, including the Nashville Opera's magnificent production of Richard Strauss' *Der Rosencavalier*, and

WHEREAS, in 1999, The Nashville Symphony performed *The Star-Spangled Banner* before 67,000 fans and a national television audience during the opening of Adelphia Coliseum; in 2001, the Symphony will again perform at grand opening ceremonies, as the Frist Center for the Visual Arts opens its doors in downtown Nashville; and

WHEREAS, due to the talent, dedication, and stature of The Nashville Symphony, the people of Tennessee have enjoyed frequent guest performances by some of the world's leading

classical music artists, including Yo-Yo Ma, Van Cliburn, Rostropovich, Isaac Stern, and Luciano Pavarotti; and

WHEREAS, music lovers around the world can now take pleasure in the music of these wonderful musicians, as The Nashville Symphony has signed a multi-album contract with the world's largest classical music label, Naxos; the Symphony's first two compact discs garnered widespread acclaim as Editor's Picks on Amazon.com and CD's of the Month on *Classics Today*; and

WHEREAS, the first American orchestra to record for Naxos' *American Classics Series*, The Nashville Symphony saw its recording of Charles Ives' Symphony No. 2 honored by Amazon.com as one of the ten best classical CDs of 2000; that work and the Symphony's recording of the compositions of Howard Hanson combined to sell more than 10,000 units in the first year of their release, a remarkable total in classical music; and

WHEREAS, through tireless effort and extraordinary talent, The Nashville Symphony continues to compile a remarkable record of achievement, inspiring applause from the arts community of our nation and bringing honor to the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby join the members of The Nashville Symphony and the citizens of Tennessee in celebrating the Symphony's triumphal debut at Carnegie Hall and also in recognizing the invaluable contributions The Nashville Symphony makes to our community and its cultural landscape, thus validating the Capital City's reputation as the once and future "Athens of the South."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.